

What is a Greenway?



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A Greenway is a corridor of open space in its largely natural state. Greenways can be less expensive to develop and maintain than parks, yet offer as much or more to the community. They can provide recreational opportunities because they are accessible to people of all ages. They can bring neighborhoods together by linking them with each other and the city center.

What are the Benefits of Greenways?

Greenways serve as the lungs and kidneys of our cities, cleansing the air and water that we drink and breathe. Greenways offer recreational opportunities, which because of their linear nature, are directly accessible to more people than traditional parks. Greenways also provide car-free transportation routes for cyclists and walkers.

Potential Benefits of Greenways:

- **Economy:** Greenways and open space pay for themselves by inviting tourism, increasing property values, attracting new businesses and providing a mechanism for responsible floodplain management.
- **Recreation:** Greenways provide recreational opportunities for all age groups, including walking, biking, skating, socializing and nature study.
- **Environment:** Greenways and open space preserve disappearing habitat for our diverse native flora and fauna.
- **Flooding and Erosion:** Greenways along waterways provide natural storage areas for flood water, minimizing the impacts to nearby neighborhoods from rising waters during flood events.
- **Transportation:** Greenways provide safe and direct transportation alternatives, by allowing biking and walking between home, work, school, sports facilities and neighborhoods.
- **Culture:** Open space preservation will conserve the agricultural heritage and rural beauty of our unique "Heart of Texas" landscape.

What is the Brazos Greenways Council?

The Brazos Greenways Council (BGC) is a citizens group composed of Bryan and College Station residents who wish to preserve open space and create greenways for the present and future enjoyment of all area residents. Bryan and College Station are growing, which is a sign of our social and economic health. Yet we are rapidly losing the open spaces that make our cities so attractive to residents, visitors, and businesses. It is our hope that we will join the nationwide trend that now recognizes the critical importance of open, green spaces to all who live near them.

What is the BGC's Vision?

The Brazos Greenways Council envisions Bryan and College Station as having a mosaic of open spaces of various types and sizes, some small and more developed, others more rural. For example, watershed areas like Bee Creek and Wolf Pen Creek already link neighborhoods, and greenways along them would attract small businesses such as restaurants and specialty shops. The floodways of Carter Creek, Lick Creek, and White Creek would serve people on a more regional scale by remaining mostly undeveloped and by being used as walking and nature trails by families and school groups.

Publications to Look for:

Greenways for America, by Charles Little. (Johns Hopkins Press, 1990)

Greenways: A Guide to Planning, Construction and Maintenance, by Charles Flink and Robert M. Searns. (Island Press, 1992)

The Ecology of Greenways, by Daniel S. Smith and Paul A. Hellmund. (University of Minnesota Press, 1993)

Trails for the Twenty-First Century, by Charles A. Flink, Peter Lagerwey, Diane Balmori, and Robert M. Searns. (Island Press, 1993)

Brazos Greenways Council Supporting Organizations:

National Park Service...Audubon Society...Windwood Neighborhood Association...Sierra Club...Brazos Valley Cyclists...Emerald Forest Homeowners Associations...TAMU Department of Recreation, Park, and Tourism Science...Texas Parks and Wildlife Department...The Trust for Public Land...College Station Parks and Recreation Department

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